

FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

MAY 15, 1998 – MAY 28, 1998

"the little paper"

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 21

Timely Tidbits ...

Romulus Says Good-bye to Cymonne

Following a two-year battle against a rare type of brain tumor, 10-year-old Cymonne Pyles of Romulus passed away on Tuesday, April 28. More than 200 friends and loved ones bade her good-bye at a "Going Home Celebration" held on Saturday, May 2.

Anyone who would like to make a donation to the Pyles family, which was heavily hit by costs associated with Cymonne's medical care, can drop it off in Mayor William Oakley's office at Romulus City Hall, or send a check (payable to the Cymonne Pyles Medical Fund) to any branch of the National Bank of Detroit.

For more information, please see page 19.

Board of Education Candidates Profiled

Voters who are still undecided about who they'll support in the June 8 school election will want to watch for the next issue of *The Romulus News*. Our May 29, 1998 edition will carry profiles of the five candidates—Theodore Armstrong, Debbie Dick, Sheri Hicks, Alan Lambert, and Eddie Woods—who will compete for the two School Board seats currently held by Julie Oleszkowicz and Judie Gondek.

City-wide Yard Sale

The annual City-wide No-fee Yard Sale weekend has been set for May 28–31. (If two or more of the four dates are "rained out," the event will be postponed to the following weekend: June 4–7.)

In order to give the Romulus Recreation Department adequate time to compile a list of sale sites and promote the event, Romulus residents must fill out their no-fee permit applications at the Recreation building no later than Friday, May 15. Permits may be picked up at the Recreation office the week of the sale; a list of sale sites will be available at the same time. The list will also appear in the May 29 issue of *The Romulus News*. □

New Playground Equipment Dedicated



On hand to officially mark the grand opening of the new playground equipment at Fernandez Park in Romulus were (from left) local attorney Brian Oakley; Romulus City Councilmen William Crova and LeRoy Burcroff; Julie Strode, Oakwood Healthcare System Community Outreach Coordinator; and Romulus Mayor William Oakley. (photo: Oakwood Healthcare System)

Do you remember those warm spring days when you could go to the playground, clambering on the monkey bars and trying to swing as high as you could? A joint collaboration between Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center Foundation (OHACF) and the City of Romulus will make these memories a reality for many children in Romulus.

Last year, OHACF decided that a good way to encourage the health and fitness of area youngsters would be to donate playground equipment to communities in western Wayne County. Accordingly, the Foundation's "Bids for Kids" program made plans to work with the Parks and Recreation departments of Romulus, Canton, Inkster, Wayne, and Westland to install play structures at a number of local parks.

In Romulus, OHACF members worked with Recreation Director Debbie Dick and other City staff members to erect playground equipment at Fernandez Park, located several blocks north-east of Beverly School.

"This was a wonderful collaborative effort," said Dick. "Oakwood Hospital Annapolis Center Foundation paid for the purchase of the equipment, valued at more than \$21,000, while the City paid an additional \$16,000 to have it installed."

After the installation was completed, a ceremony to dedicate the new equipment was scheduled for Saturday, May 2. Although inclement weather kept many people at home, a number of residents came out to witness the dedication, officiated by Mayor William Oakley and Councilmen LeRoy Burcroff and William Crova.

"I really appreciate the efforts that the folks from Oakwood have made to improve the fitness of Romulus children," said Oakley. "I look forward to working with them on other projects in the future."

Councilman Burcroff is sure that the new play structure will be appreciated by the neighborhood's young people.

"Even in the rain, several kids were checking out the new equipment," he said. "I know they'll have a good time using it. Kids aren't as concerned about fitness as they are about fun, so it's great when you can combine the two."

Councilman Crova concurred, saying, "I'm always happy anytime we can make an improvement to our neighborhoods. The addition of the new playground equipment is a real plus for the kids and the City as a whole."

Following comments made at the May 11 meeting of the Romulus City Council, Recreation Director Dick offered apologies to Fernandez Park-area residents who were offended by a flyer which mistakenly promoted the May 2 ceremony as a park dedication.

"We didn't mean to imply that the park was going to be renamed," Dick explained. "We were just trying to reaffirm our commitment to the residents by 'rededicating' the park back to the community. The park *belongs* to the people. We encourage them to use it." □

Letter to the Editor

RMS Student Pays Tribute to Wright

Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Hello, my name is Stephanie Durtka, and I'm an eighth-grade student at Romulus Middle School. I am writing this letter as a sort of "ode" to Romulus Police Officer Darrin Wright.

When I saw the article about Officer Wright's involvement in the City's new K-9 Program (*The Romulus News*, April 3, 1998), it reminded me of all the help that he gave to me and others during his time as a DARE officer at the Middle

School. He taught us a lot and went out of his way to befriend a lot of us. He is a very sensitive and nice person. He has a heart of gold and, if you need it, a shoulder to cry on. In many ways, he's a hero; in fact, he's better than any hero. I and many others will carry his lessons with us for a lifetime. I just hope that I can become half the person he is. It's a lot to live up to, but I'm sure he'd be proud if any of us tried or succeeded.

At the Middle School, Officer Wright is very much missed, but Bandit is a lucky dog to have someone as great as Officer Wright to work with.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you learned how very special Officer Wright is.

Yours truly,
Stephanie Durtka
Romulus ☐

Law Day Spurs Mock Trial



Among the Law Day "Mock Trial" participants were (from left) Tom White, Belleville attorney; Brian Oakley, Romulus attorney; Jackie Mills, Fran Bredow, Kathy Rangel, and Jerome Tabb ("Defense" side); and Amber Long and Pauline Hargis ("Prosecution" side).

The Law Day "Mock Trial" program – held at the 34th District Court on Tuesday, May 12 – had a terrific turnout, according to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus. The annual event brought Romulus High School government students and local senior citizens together with various community leaders for a fun-filled lesson in how our judicial system operates.

Norman had high praise for the people who helped to organize the event.

"Judge Tina Brooks-Green was wonderful, finding time in her busy schedule to oversee our trial, answer questions afterward, and make cake for our refreshment table," Norman said.

"Local attorney Brian Oakley was also instrumental in the program's success," she continued. "It was Oakley

who recruited the other two attorneys – Steve Robinson (who works with Oakley's firm) and Tom White (who has a practice in Belleville) – who so generously donated their time.

"Romulus Police Officer Joe Richardson, who conducts our monthly Crime Watch program at the Senior Center and writes the 'McGruff' column for our newsletter, authored the crime scenario we used for the trial. His efforts were the backbone of the event.

"And, finally, special thanks are due to Romulus High School teacher Rod Hanna's government students, as well as Senior Class Advisor Rosalie Berlin, who chaperoned the students who participated."

Norman concluded by noting that plans are already in the works for next year's program. ☐



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Home Town Heroes

In the Spotlight: Kimberly (Lewis) Panek

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of three articles highlighting the life and profession of Romulus High School graduates who have returned this year to teach in the Romulus Community Schools. Featured in this issue is Kimberly Panek, who teaches second grade at Wick Elementary School.)

In 1978, Kimberly (Lewis) Panek entered Merriman Elementary School and was greeted by her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Peg Ross. Today, as a first-year teacher in the Romulus Community Schools, Kimberly teaches a second-grade class at Wick Elementary. Her story is just one of many about Romulus High School students who have returned to their home town to contribute to Romulus and make it a better place to live.

"The Romulus school district did a great job preparing me for college," said Kimberly. "I would have to say that my involvement in extracurricular activities and working with others increased my understanding of people, and that was a definite asset in college."

Many of Kimberly's instructors were great role models of good teaching and positive reinforcement. When asked to name her favorite teacher, she answered, "Mrs. Peg Ross. Mrs. Ross was not only my kindergarten teacher, but my fourth-grade teacher. She was excellent—strict but lovable. I learned a lot about school, life, and how to meet a challenge."

Raised on Taft Street in Romulus by her parents, Ray Lewis and Patricia Stewart, Kimberly attended Merriman Elementary and Romulus Junior High before moving on to the Senior High School, from which she graduated in 1991. She is well remembered by her school friends, Brooke Felice, who is now a registered nurse, and Chris Vavro, a law student.

"Kimberly was born to be a teacher," Brooke said. "She always was a good student, and demonstrated patience even when she was young."

Chris concurred, saying, "We used to compete for the best marks, and I still remember how smart she was. I am sure she is a wonderful teacher."

After graduating from Romulus High School, Kimberly enrolled in the nurs-



Kimberly (Lewis) Panek, a 1991 graduate of Romulus High School who has returned to her home town to teach, stands with her second-grade students outside Wick Elementary School.

ing program at Southeast Missouri State University. Later, she married Rich Panek and moved to Fort Rucker, Alabama, where she graduated from Troy State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and a teaching certificate.

"I am happy that I chose to teach, because every day is a challenge as well as rewarding," she said.

After returning to the Romulus area to live, Kimberly was hired last summer to teach at Wick Elementary. She loves teaching in the school district where she was educated, and feels that it's a real pleasure to work with some of her former teachers.

"I've enjoyed a comfort level with these people that most new teachers never experience," said Kimberly.

The Wick staff has provided direction and encouragement to Kimberly during this first year in the school district. Her mentor, Nancy Talento, who teaches second grade at Wick, is very pleased with the job that Kimberly is doing.

"It has been my pleasure to work with Kim this year," Nancy said. "She is a 'natural' when it comes to teaching. Kim is well prepared and very organized. She has shared many creative ideas with me."

When told what Nancy said about her teaching abilities, Kimberly was equally supportive of her mentor: "Nancy is the true professional. She knows how to teach to the varied abilities of her students. She will motivate the reluctant student, but still challenge the bright student. In education today, that is the key to success."

Principal Debbie Juriga is also happy to have Kimberly at Wick.

"Kimberly is a fine, hard-working, first-year teacher and a pleasure to have on our staff," said Debbie. "The school district and the community are proud that one of their own has returned to give back and share her success and talents. It validates Romulus schools and benefits the next generation of students."

All teachers remember their first classroom and the students they helped, and Kimberly will be no exception. She believes that she will not forget her current class because of the students' sincerity and innocence.

"You never know what second-graders will say, and I am always astounded with their honesty and quality answers," she said.

Perhaps Kimberly feels this way because of her professional manner of teaching. There is mutual respect and expectation for students and teacher in her classroom.

Marwin Boyd, one of Kimberly's second-graders, expressed it this way: "She is very wonderful and cute and nice. She is so sweet, she will melt me like a Popsicle. I love Mrs. Panek."

Marwin's classmate, Shaniya Dye, said, "The things that I like about Mrs. Panek are that she is nice and pretty, and she is so wonderful, she makes me feel at home. She is like a mother to me!"



The Romulus News and Romulus Community Schools salute Mrs. Kimberly Panek as one of the many outstanding and dedicated teachers working in our district.



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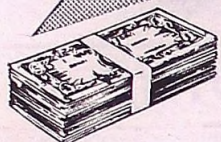
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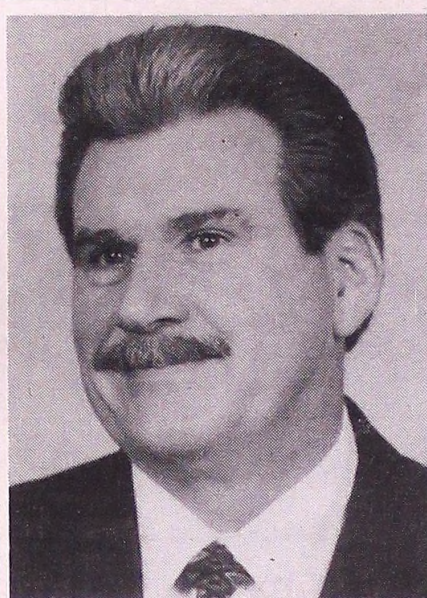
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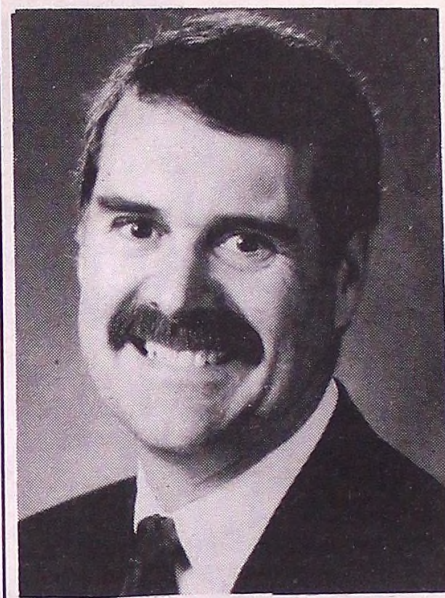
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Incumbent Representative, Senator Will Seek Reelection



Representative Ray Basham



Senator Loren Bennett

Romulus' current State Senator, Loren Bennett (R-Canton Township) and State Representative, Raymond Basham (D-Taylor) have announced their intentions to seek reelection.

Senator Loren Bennett

"We have accomplished a great deal over the past three years, but the journey is not over," Bennett told those who were in attendance when he kicked off his campaign. "We must continue to apply common sense to legislative decisions."

Bennett noted such accomplishments as the Tuition Tax Credit, which provides a tax credit against tuition paid to a public university that keeps tuition increases at or below the rate of inflation. In addition, he noted new road projects such as the widening of Newburgh Road in Westland and Telegraph Road in Brownstown Township.

"Loren Bennett is the most accessible, responsive, and intuitive legislator this district has ever had," said Canton Township Supervisor Tom Yack. "He understands that state government should work with, not against, individuals, businesses, and municipalities."

Romulus Mayor William Oakley added, "Loren has demonstrated that his focus is on sound policy, not partisanship. I have come to know him as a man who says what he means, and stands by his beliefs; I respect that."

After the announcement, Bennett spoke with individuals in the crowd.

Carl Simcox, an active senior citizen from Westland, enjoyed the event and looks forward to the campaign.

"Senator Bennett and his staff are doing what's most important for an elected official: being helpful and responsive," said Simcox. "Every time I call the office, I get immediate help. Loren's the type of guy I want representing me in Lansing. He's got my efforts and my vote."

Representative Ray Basham

"I have enjoyed serving Taylor and Romulus, helping residents, and working to make life better for our families," Basham told loyal supporters when he announced his bid for reelection. "I have learned much this past year, and I hope I can continue to put that knowledge to work for residents of the 22nd District."

Basham was elected to fill the seat that was vacated when former Representative Gregory Pitoniak resigned to take the position of Mayor of Taylor. Previously, Basham had served on the Taylor City Council, the Taylor Planning Commission, and the Taylor Water Commission. He had also served as a Taylor constable.

"My colleagues and I have accomplished a great deal to help working families," Basham stated. "Education is a top priority for me, and I am proud to have supported legislation which will bring millions of dollars to Taylor schools for a reduced-class-size pilot program. I am also promoting a school violence package which will make our schools and communities safe from drugs and gangs."

"I supported and cosponsored Democratic legislation which led to a \$1.2-billion refund from the Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association to all Michigan drivers," Basham continued. "That puts \$180 per vehicle back in the pockets of everyone who pays auto insurance in Michigan."

Basham added that, after his election to the House, he lobbied hard to obtain a seat on the Conservation, Environment and Recreation Committee so he could fight the proposed commercial hazardous-waste disposal well in Romulus. Basham has also worked on legislation to address other issues.

"I have serious concerns regarding the operation of commercial hazardous

continued on page 6

Wanted: Parents Willing To Connect with Their Preschooler



Katelynn Buyer works with (from left) her mother, Mayra Buyer, and Parent Connectors Waneeta Spencer and Kari Piestrak. Altogether, 14 Romulus families participate in the Parent Connector program.

The Parent Connector is looking for families who would like to do something extra to help their four- or five-year-old child get off to a special start in school.

The Parent Connector involves twice-a-month, at-home sessions of fun-filled readiness activities and monthly Saturday field trips, and also provides parents with important information and school connections. The program is conducted at no cost to participants, thanks to a Detroit Edison Foundation grant and the support of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and the Romulus Community Schools.

Already, 14 Romulus families are finding how easy and rewarding it is to be involved in the Parent Connector.

The only requirement that a family must meet in order to participate in the program is to have a willingness to spend the year before and the year of their child's kindergarten grade working to give him/her a boost in his/her budding educational career.

If you don't have a preschool-age child yourself, please pass on the word about this wonderful program to families who do.

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Basham, Bennett Seek Reelection

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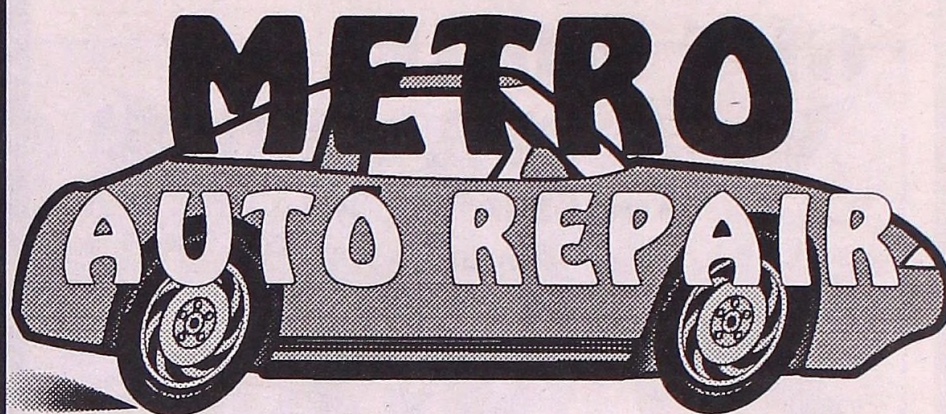
waste disposal wells in Michigan," Basham explained. "While disposal wells may be considered theoretically sound, I believe that the verdict is still out on the long-term effects of burying hazardous wastes within the Earth's geologic formations."

Basham said that the House has stepped forward to help the environment by passing his legislation overseeing the State's mineral wells program. Basham's legislation establishes a user-supported regulatory program to monitor waste-disposal wells, brine wells, and test wells. The program is funded by increased permit application

fees and new annual regulatory fees.

In addition to serving on the Conservation, Environment and Recreation Committee, Basham serves as Vice-chair of the Advanced Technology and Computer Development Committee and is also a member of the Insurance Committee, Consumer Protection Committee, and Public Retirement Committee.

The Representative is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and served four years as an auxiliary police officer. He was formerly an elected and appointed United Auto Workers official employed by Ford Motor Company. He and his wife Iva have two children and four grandchildren. □



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Grandparents Visit Cory



Cory fourth-grader Nathan Samuels (left) and his brother, first-grader Jordan, show off their computer room to their grandmother, Carolyn Thacker, during Cory's Grandparents' Day celebration.

"I was so pleased with the tremendous turnout today," beamed Cory Principal Phyllis Adkins, discussing the school's 'Grandparents' Day' program. Although the weather was rainy and cold, more than 300 people came to participate in the annual event, which highlights student talent and provides the youngsters with an opportunity to show off their school.

The day's activities began with the registration process, at which time the participants received red carnations, enjoyed a continental breakfast, and met their grandchildren. Later, students entertained their visitors with songs, dancing, a piano recital, and an instrumental band performance.

Twelve volunteer parents helped to organize the event and direct the overflow crowd. Twenty specially selected students met visitors at the doors, con-

ducted tours of the school, and passed out programs while assisting anyone who needed help.

Lovell West, a great-grandmother, was just one of the many excited participants that day.

"It is so nice to see the teachers and students working so hard," she smiled. "The computers and all the great things that these children use to learn makes this a good school."

Grandmother Carolyn Thacker agreed, saying, "We didn't have these nice things when we went to school."

Thacker's grandson Nathan also enjoyed the visit.

"I like to show off all the neat things we have at Cory," he said.

After the hour-long program of entertainment, a number of the students were dismissed to spend the rest of the day with their grandparents. □



Cory fourth-grader LeRodd Williams (front left) and his grandmother, Barbara Underwood, along with second-grader Cameron Jackson and his mother, Sherry Jackson, pose with Great Grandmother Lovell West, who proudly shows off her "What Is A Grandmother?" statement written by Cory students for Grandparents' Day.

A Walk Down History Lane



Taking a walk down History Lane were the 25 students from Mrs. Golka's class at Wick Elementary School. These super-talented sixth-graders researched and wrote biographical sketches about famous historical figures whom they admired. After sharing their knowledge with other students at Wick, Mrs. Golka's class went to other elementary schools (like Merriman, where this photo was taken) to enlighten their students. The "History Lane" lesson began with Pocahontas, born in 1595, and concluded with Sally Ride, who was born in 1957.

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Romulus Middle School counselor Linda Bradfield (center) with seventh-grade students (standing, from left) Brandon Varga, Leslie Perez, Robert Rice, and Hilary Kozma, and (seated, from left) Cassandra Wilson and Brenda Finley. These six outstanding scholars received a perfect 4.0 grade point average (all As), and were honored at a special assembly with 100 other seventh-graders who earned Honor Roll distinction.



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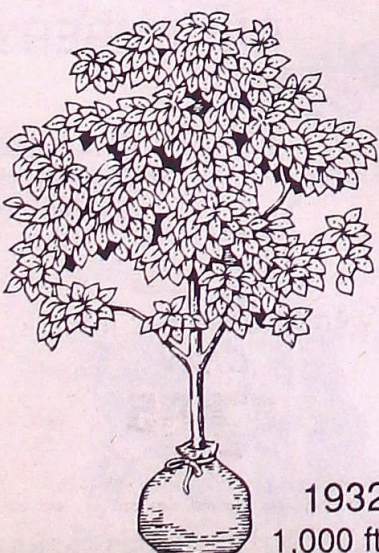
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AAA Compiles List of State's Top 10 Stolen Cars for '97



MICHIGAN'S "TOP 10" MOST STOLEN VEHICLES

1. Plymouth/Dodge Neon
2. Ford Taurus
3. Ford Explorer
4. Jeep Grand Cherokee
5. Ford Thunderbird
6. Ford Mustang
7. Dodge Shadow
8. Chevrolet Caprice
9. Plymouth Sundance
10. Pontiac Grand Am

Source: AAA Michigan claim reports, Jan. 1997—Jan. 1998

Auto thieves are saying "Hi" to the Plymouth/Dodge Neon in record numbers. According to AAA Michigan, the car was the most popular vehicle stolen in the State in 1997. Also high on the year's list are two utility vehicles — the Ford Explorer (third) and the Jeep Grand Cherokee (fourth).

Preliminary reports suggest that Michigan's 1997 theft claims were down substantially from 1996, which saw a nine-percent increase in auto thefts. From 1986 to 1996, Michigan thefts declined 13%. During this same period, the national theft rate increased 14%.

James Oliver, Senior Vice-president of Property and Casualty Insurance for AAA Michigan, noted that 62,930 auto thefts occurred in Michigan in 1996. He added that a Statewide VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching program conducted by AAA and the Auto Theft Prevention Authority should help reduce those numbers for 1998.

"Not only does VIN etching make a car less appealing to car thieves, but an etched vehicle may qualify for a discount on the comprehensive portion of an auto insurance premium," said Oliver. AAA Michigan, for example, offers a five-percent discount for VIN etching.

In addition to proactive antitheft measures, AAA Michigan is strongly committed to fighting all forms of insurance fraud, Oliver said. Since 1984, when AAA Michigan's Claims Investigation Unit was established, the company has successfully deterred fraud on 4,800 claims, saving its policyholders more than \$38 million.

Michigan's Top 10 stolen vehicles for 1998, as reported by AAA Michigan

(based on claims reported between January 1997 and January 1998), are:

1. Plymouth/Dodge Neon
2. Ford Taurus
3. Ford Explorer
4. Jeep Grand Cherokee
5. Ford Thunderbird
6. Ford Mustang
7. Dodge Shadow
8. Chevrolet Caprice
9. Plymouth Sundance
10. Pontiac Grand Am

To help reduce the chances of becoming a victim of auto theft, AAA Michigan offers the following tips.

- Lock it and pocket the key.
- Always park in a well-lit, well-traveled location.
- Don't leave valuables in view.
- Turn on auto-theft devices, such as a kill switch or alarm.
- Etch windows with your car's Vehicle Identification Number. □

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LEAPFROG

Write the word(s) that fits definition #1 into the correspondingly numbered box. Next, drop one letter and anagram (rearrange) the remaining letters to find the answer to definition #2. Perform the same drop-a-letter/anagram procedure on word #2 to arrive at the answer to definition #3. Place the first dropped letter in the space to the left of answer #1 and the second in the space to the right of answer #3. Repeat this process on each line of the puzzle. If the puzzle is done correctly, the dropped letters, read from top to bottom, will spell out some timely phrases.

	1	2	3	
	4	5	6	
	7	8	9	
	10	11	12	
	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	
	19	20	21	
	22	23	24	
	25	26	27	
	28	29	30	
	31	32	33	

DEFINITIONS

- Group of wives, concubines, etc.
- Listen
- Unit of time
- When Scarlett needed a new dress to deceive Rhett, she made one from these
- A Mustang, compared to a Lincoln
- Candy _____
- Assyrian hunting hero
- He sculpted "Le Penseur" ("The Thinker")
- French fashion designer Christian
- Slack; relaxed
- Shoe section
- Victor Hugo's _____ *Miserables*
- Goldwater or Manilow
- Donkey sound
- Word following Botany, Chesapeake, or Guantanamo
- These mythological monsters were a composite of many disparate animals
- Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy
- Shriek at the top of one's lungs
- Romulus Mayor William or his son, local attorney Brian
- Bumpkin
- It's surrounded by the albumen
- Enticed; tempted
- Discourteous
- Word preceding process or date
- Group of 12
- Rod Serling's *Twilight* _____
- Split _____ (musical group)
- Scanty; skimpy
- Gradually blend together
- Pathogenic microorganism
- Hypodermic
- Alan or Michael Jackson
- Rule, as a king

For solution, see page 14

YOU'LL FIND IT IN "COMMEMORATE"

How many four-letter words can you form using only the letters found in *COMMEMORATE*? A letter can be used more than once only if it appears more than once. Proper nouns, obsolete and archaic words, slang and informal words, poetic words, hyphenated words, contractions, and foreign words are not permitted.

Our list of 49 four-letter words can be found on page 14

Add Some Pizzazz to Your Memorial Day Barbecue

Memorial Day – the traditional start of the barbecue season – is at hand, and picnickers everywhere are planning their menus for the holiday weekend. This year, those who like to remain faithful to traditional cookout fare can still give their meal a little pizzazz by taking an old standby – the great American burger – and giving it a new twist.

The recipe for Blue Cheese Stuffed Burgers (below) uses ground beef – one of the best meats for the barbecue. A slow charcoal fire cooks burgers to their most flavorful, tender, and juicy best. In addition to great taste, lean-beef burgers offer a big helping of nutrition. They're high in iron and zinc as well as an excellent source of protein.

Blue Cheese Stuffed Burgers

(serves 4)

1½ pounds lean ground beef
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ 3-ounce package of cream cheese
1 tablespoon crumbled blue cheese
1 tablespoon minced onion
1 teaspoon prepared horseradish

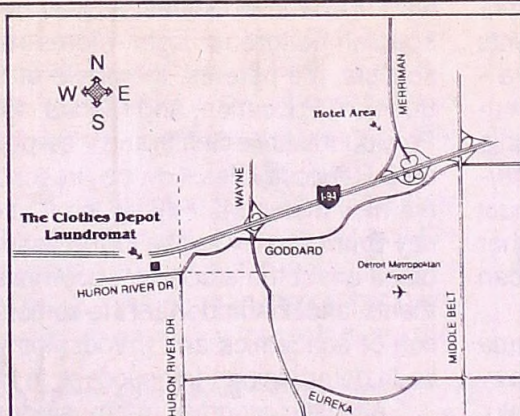
Sprinkle pepper over ground beef; mix lightly but thoroughly. Divide meat into 8 equal portions and form into patties 4 inches in diameter.

Combine the cream cheese, blue cheese, and horseradish. Place 1 tablespoon of mixture in center of 4 patties. Top each one with a remaining patty. Press edges together securely to seal.

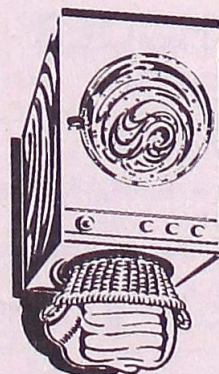
Place on grill over ash-covered coals so burgers are 5 to 6 inches from coals. Broil 5 to 6 minutes on first side;

turn and broil another 5 to 6 minutes or until desired doneness.

Source: Cyanamid's Agricultural Division □



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(12) 25-LB. WASHERS
(7) STANDARD MAYTAGS
(12) 30-LB. DRYERS

RHS National Honor Society Inducts 19 New Members



(From left) National Honor Society officers Rebecca Oleszkowicz (Vice-president), Linda Ryznar (Treasurer), Natalie Griffith (President), Amber Long (Secretary), and Nicole Laskaska (Parliamentarian) pose in the Romulus High School foyer after conducting a very successful induction ceremony.

At the annual National Honor Society (NHS) ceremony which was recently held in the Romulus High School auditorium, 19 new members were inducted.

The National Honor Society is a prestigious organization which has recognized talented high-school students for more than 50 years. Strict criteria – such as the possession of a 3.5 cumulative grade-point average, leadership abilities, a history of community service, and an excellent character – must be evident and confirmed by a teacher recommendation before a student can be selected for membership.

This year's 19 inductees are: Jarene Armstrong, Amber Bowman, Brad Bowman, Carrie Brown, Tariprey Burutolu, Thaie Carter, Andrea Coate, Erin Conway, LaNeda Davis, Erin Fisher, LaDonna Franklin, Stephen Harper,

Felicia Middlebrooks, Steven Mientkiewicz, Nicolle Moue, Jennifer Nieman, Jessica Nieman, Jannetta Sewell, and Brooke Thompson.

High School Principal Dan Hurst welcomed the inductees, as well as 36 special honorees from elementary schools, the parents, members of the Board of Education, and friends. NHS President Natalie Griffith and Vice-president Rebecca Oleszkowicz presented the new members. Finally, local attorney Brian Oakley spoke to the assemblage about the students' accomplishments, and how important the combination of academics and friendships will be in determining their success in life.

After the program, many students and adults gathered in the foyer to enjoy refreshments supplied and served by the Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club. □

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ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 27, 1998

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, April 27, 1998 was called to order by President Julie A. Oleszkowicz at 7:34 P.M.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Oleszkowicz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

4/98/6 Moved by Gondek supported by Webb to approve the Minutes of March 23, 1998 as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

4/98/7 Moved by Gondek supported by Webb to approve the Minutes of March 23, 1998 as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

4/98/8 Moved by Berlinn supported by Gondek to approve the employment of Kim Panek, Elementary Teacher, Effective Fall 1998, and Michelle Morrell, Special Ed Teacher (Middle School), Effective Fall 1998. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

4/98/9 Moved by Gondek supported by Berlinn to accept the resignations of: Linda Speight, Elementary Teacher, Effective June 13, 1998; Rachel Paulson, Elementary Teacher, Effective June 13, 1998; and Sarita Chadwick, Paraprofessional, Effective March 27, 1998. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

4/98/10 Moved by Kesner supported by Webb to accept the retirement of Paulette Stockman, Bus Driver, Effective May 1, 1998. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Bills for Payment

4/98/11 Moved by Berlinn supported by Gondek to approve Bills for Payment as submitted by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Curriculum Report

Lynne Mossoian and Dan Hurst were present to give a report on curriculum areas with a presentation on language arts, and responded to questions posed by members of the Board of Education.

Copier Purchases

4/98/12 Moved by Woods supported by Gondek to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and purchase three (3) Kodak 2085 copiers at a cost of \$17,500 each. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Athletic Training Agreement

4/98/13 Moved by Woods supported by Gondek that the Board of Education contract with Oakwood Healthcare System for Athletic Trainer services for 1998-99. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

Various members of the audience discussed their concerns as they pertain to the operation of the school district with members of the Board of Education.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Kenneth Berlinn, Mr. Mike Woods, and Mrs. Eva Webb discussed their recent trip to New Orleans for the National School Board Association.

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with the Board of Education: 1) Finance Minutes; 2) High School Symposium; 3) Field Trips Approved – French Students to France and Halecreek to Cedar Point; and 4) Congratulations – "Pippin" – Judy Thompson.

Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members

Mrs. Judie Gondek stated that she and Mrs. Oleszkowicz would be unable to do the Prom Toast this year.

Mrs. Betty Lenossi stated that we needed Board members at the High School Symposium.

Mr. Howard Kesner mentioned the need to upgrade technology.

Executive Session – Negotiations

4/98/14 Moved by Woods supported by Berlinn that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 8:23 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:50 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

4/98/15 Moved by Woods supported by Berlinn that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty M. Lenossi, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 27, 1998

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, April 27, 1998 was called to order by President Julie A. Oleszkowicz at 7:00 P.M.

Roll call showed Member Kesner absent (excused). All administrators were present. Also present was Linda M. Foster, attorney.

The Board convened in a private session for the purpose of hearing a student expulsion appeal.

Member Kesner entered the meeting at 7:21 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

4/98/5 Moved by Woods supported by Kesner to adjourn the student hearing. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The student hearing was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty M. Lenossi, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

PUBLIC NOTICE FROM ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PESTICIDE USAGE NOTIFICATION

Our school district employs Rose Exterminator Company to provide monthly pesticide applications in our food-service areas. Our custodians, at the end of the school day, may spot treat an area with an aerosol pesticide spray.

We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for pesticide applications reflect that concern.

Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Willard M. Bower
Supervisor of Maintenance and Operations
Romulus Community Schools

Representative Basham Votes To Make Nursing Homes Safer

State Representative Ray Basham (D-Taylor) joined the fight for improved care in Michigan's nursing homes by supporting the Consumer and Industry Services (CIS) budget, which included a House Democratic plan to increase the number of nursing-home inspectors.

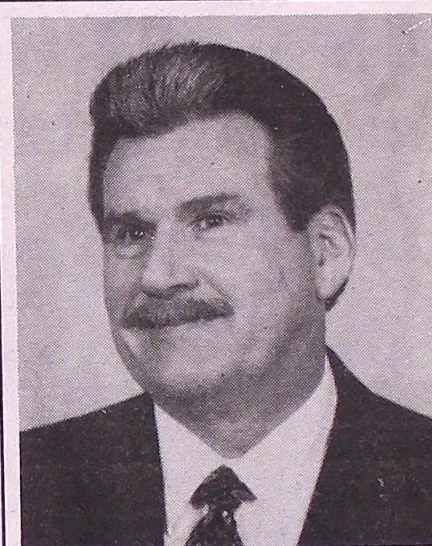
"Placing a loved one in a nursing home is a difficult enough decision without worrying that there's a one-in-10 chance that he or she could be neglected or abused," said Basham. "Attorney General Frank Kelley has reported that complaints have been levied against 10% of the State's nursing homes. Those are odds that no one should have to face. Increasing the number of inspectors will ensure that seniors living in nursing homes are given the highest quality care."

Under the CIS budget passed by the House, the number of nursing-home inspectors will increase from 90 to 120. The House has also considered legislation that will prohibit the hiring of anyone having a certain criminal background.

"The number of complaints against nursing homes has skyrocketed," said Basham. "One case of abuse or neglect would be bad enough, but more than 2,000 is appallingly unacceptable."

The Attorney General's office said that it received 707 complaints about nursing-home abuse and neglect in 1995. That number increased to 1,499 in 1996, and to 1,760 in 1997. This year, the Attorney General's office is projecting that it will receive more than 2,000 complaints about nursing-home care.

"This problem has been ignored by Governor Engler, who has allowed the number of inspectors to drop," Basham claimed. "Worse than that, it has been widely reported that inspectors are dis-



Representative Ray Basham

couraged from writing citations in order to appease the nursing-home industry.

"As we add more inspectors, we must make every effort to ensure that they are not prevented from doing their job or from protecting seniors in nursing homes." □

Greatest Talent Show Ever!

By Wick Elementary School students
Natalie Blake and Kristina Rafalski

Dancing, singing, even an impersonation of the Spice Girls and Elvis, all helped to make this year's first annual Talent Show at Wick School a huge success.

A group of over 75 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade students participated in this splendid event. Singers sang songs like "How Do I Live" by LeAnn Rimes and dancers danced to "Hey Mickey" while talented musicians performed an assortment of songs.

None of this would have been possible if not for a very active parent volunteer, Mrs. Ginny Schultz, as well as hard-working fifth-grade teacher, Mrs. Diane Golka, and our energetic sixth-grade teacher, Ms. Lisa Kerr. Stacey White, a very crea-

tive parent volunteer, made some wonderful background scenery using the school's mascot, while our school librarian, Joann Bjork, videotaped the entire performance.

The talent show idea was conceived by the Wick Student Council.

We must also thank the students who helped run the Talent Show. James Davis announced each act and also performed. Bryan Hoehing did a great job at keeping track and playing music for each act. We cannot forget Jason Elder and Richard Bell, who skillfully worked the lights and curtain.

All in all, the Wick Talent Show was a wonderful experience for the students, teachers, and parents who participated. Hopefully, next year's talent show will be just as exciting! □

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

SPECIAL MEETING, APRIL 21, 1998

The Special Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Tuesday, April 21, 1998 was called to order by President Julie A. Oleszkowicz at 5:30 P.M.

Roll call showed members Lenossi and Kesner absent. All administrators were present. Mr. Thomas Schwarze was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Oleszkowicz.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

4/98/1 Moved by Gondek supported by Berlinn to approve the Agenda as submitted. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

4/98/2 Moved by Gondek supported by Webb that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call showed: Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

4/98/3 Moved by Woods supported by Gondek that the Board reenter Special Meeting. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Questions and/or Comments of Board Members

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

4/98/4 Moved by Woods supported by Gondek that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 5. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty M. Lenossi, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

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Hegira Receives Accreditation

Hegira Programs, Inc., one of the largest freestanding substance-abuse and mental-health-care organizations in the State, was again awarded Accreditation with Commendation by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as a result of an on-site survey in November of 1997. This is the second consecutive triennial period that Hegira Programs has received the highest level of accreditation for excellence in health care by meeting National standards set by the Joint Commission.

"Receiving Accreditation with Commendation is a significant achievement — one that recognizes exemplary performance by Hegira Programs, Inc.," says Dennis S.

O'Leary, M.D., President, Joint Commission. "The organization should be commended for its commitment to providing quality care to the people in its community."

Hegira Programs, Inc. includes a number of programs along the substance-abuse and mental-health-care continuum. Among these programs are: hegira house, Hegira-Westland Counseling Center, Psychiatric Intervention Center and Behavioral Diagnostic Center in Westland, Livonia Counseling Center and Hegira Prevention Network in Livonia, Next Step Clubhouse in Inkster, Northville Counseling Center in Northville, Oakdale Recovery Center in Canton, and Romulus Help Center in Romulus. □

Wick Science Fair Rules!



(From left) fifth-grade students Jimmy Deline, Jared Kozma, Stephen Kish, Sarah Ward, and Phillip Roscoe display their Science projects for the Wick Elementary School Science Fair.

By Shawn Perkins and Stephen Kish, Wick School students

There was a Science Fair in town and it happened at Wick Elementary School. Fifth- and sixth-grade students were required to research a science topic that interested them and then write a report and complete a project about their science interest.

Areas covered in the science fair included the solar system, electricity, the human body, and rocks and minerals. The outstanding displays and reports were awarded medals, and all students received a certificate for completing their assignment.

The students voted to have a science fair because they would learn and be more interested in science.

So far this year, the Science Fair has been one of the biggest events that has hit Wick Elementary.

Fifth-grade teacher Pat Adams was very impressed with the work and dedication that the students demonstrated.

"I was really pleased with the quality of the reports and projects," Adams said.

Principal Debbie Juriga said, "I am proud of every student who participated and the high standards they reached through their diligent efforts." □

Pet Show



Shannon Spicer, a first-grader in Mrs. Notaro's class at Halecreek, shows her kitten, "Diamond," during a Pet Show conducted by the class. Participants wrote the invitations, addressed the class, answered any questions, and listened to other presentations.

Softball at the Middle School

Blue Division

- Romulus at Ypsilanti East (Tue., May 19, 3:45 p.m.)
- Hilbert at Romulus (Thu., May 21, 3:45 p.m.)

Coach: T. Gibson

Upcoming Athletics at Romulus High School

Varsity Baseball

- Romulus at River Rouge (Fri., May 15, 4 p.m.)
- Fordson at Romulus (Mon., May 18, 4 p.m.)
- Melvindale at Romulus (Tue., May 19, 4 p.m.)
- Inkster at Romulus (Wed., May 20, 4 p.m.)

Coach: D. Foley

Junior Varsity Baseball

- River Rouge at Romulus (Fri., May 15, 4 p.m.)
- Romulus at Fordson (Mon., May 18, 4 p.m.)
- Romulus at Melvindale (Tue., May 19, 4 p.m.)

Coach: K. Brothers

Varsity Softball

- River Rouge at Romulus (Fri., May 15, 4 p.m.)
- Romulus at Fordson (Mon., May 18, 4 p.m.)
- Romulus at Inkster (Wed., May 20, 4 p.m.)

Coach: W. Cuhran

Junior Varsity Softball

- Romulus at River Rouge (Fri., May 15, 4 p.m.)
- Fordson at Romulus (Mon., May 18, 4 p.m.)

Coaches: L. Berlinn, M. Berlinn

Tennis – Gold Division

- Romulus at River Rouge (Fri., May 15, 4 p.m.)
- Willow Run at Romulus (Mon., May 18, 4 p.m.)
- Redford Union at Romulus (Wed., May 20, 4 p.m.)
- Division Tournament at Romulus (Tue., May 26, 8:30 a.m.)

Coach: K. McDonald

Boys' Track – Blue Division

- Division Meet at Allen Park (Tue., May 19, 3 p.m.)

Coach: N. Glover

Girls' Track – Gold Division

- Division Meet at River Rouge (Tue., May 19, 3 p.m.)

Coach: R. Bayes

Answers

answers to puzzles from page 11

LEAPFROG

- 1) harem; 2) hear; 3) era
- 4) portieres; 5) sportier; 6) striper
- 7) Nimrod; 8) Rodin; 9) Dior
- 10) loose; 11) sole; 12) Les
- 13) Barry; 14) bray; 15) Bay
- 16) Chimeras; 17) Marches; 18) scream
- 19) Oakley; 20) yokel; 21) yolk
- 22) lured; 23) rude; 24) due
- 25) dozen; 26) Zone; 27) Enz
- 28) meager; 29) merge; 30) germ
- 31) syringe; 32) singer; 33) reign

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acme, acre, atom, came, care, cart, cero, coat, coma, come, coot, core, corm, cote, cram, mace, mare, mart, mate, meat, meet, mere, mete, moat, moor, moot, more, mote, orca, race, rate, ream, roam, room, root, rote, taco, tame, tare, taro, team, tear, teem, term, toea, tome, tore, tram, tree

Rafalski Wins Essay Contest



State Senator Loren Bennett presents a proclamation to sixth-grade student Kristina Rafalski, who placed first in the second annual writing contest sponsored by Bennett. Kristina's mother, Debra Rafalski, holds the \$50 U.S. savings bond which was also part of the first prize. "Protecting Our Environment" was the theme of this year's contest.

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Country Corner

Dixie Meets Motown at Budweiser Downtown Hoedown

Although you might not normally associate the words Dixie and Motown, the two will come together this weekend when country music's hottest female group, the Dixie Chicks, appears at the 16th annual Budweiser/106.7 W4 Country Downtown Hoedown, to be held on the riverfront in Detroit's Hart Plaza.

These Chicks Are Deep

It's not often that a new group explodes onto the music scene with a sound so distinctive that you'd *immediately* know it again anywhere, but the Dixie Chicks have done just that. Lead singer Natalie Maines' clear, powerful voice has a haunting quality that, despite its obvious difference, is somehow reminiscent of The Cranberries' Dolores O'Riordan, and sisters Emily Erwin and Martie Seidel provide a backdrop of tight harmonies and versatile instrumentation that's truly distinctive.

Make no mistake: The members of this Texas trio are nothing like the stereotypes about blonds, "girl singers," or Southern women. They have depth. If you want the proof, just listen to their Monument Records debut album, *Wide Open Spaces*. In the span of about 45 minutes, you'll go from the upbeat hit single, "I Can Love You Better," to a sweet rendition of an old favorite, "Loving Arms"; from the simple, honest, sincere story-telling of the title track to the naked pain of "You Were Mine"; from the rockin' "Let 'Er Rip" to the country "Tonight The Heartache's On Me."

One reason for the Dixie Chicks' surprisingly mature sound is that, despite their youth (they're all in their twenties), they've been working at their craft for a long time. Like many "new" artists, they've actually been around for years.

"It's important to emphasize the fact that Dixie Chicks are world-class entertainers, and that they aren't new to this," said Sony Music Nashville President Allen Butler. "When they brought in songs for the album, they said, 'This is us; this is who we are.' They put their thumbprint on this album."

Indeed, by choosing the songs, singing all the vocals, and playing many of the instruments, the women have left their prints all over it.

The Dixie Chicks first came into being in the summer of 1989, when Martie and Emily (then age 19 and 16, respectively) — along with two other original band members (Natalie joined in 1995) — went down to a street corner in Dallas to play. The tips from their



The Dixie Chicks: (from left) Martie, Natalie, and Emily. (photo: Matthew Barnes)

obviously appreciative "audience" were so plentiful, it didn't take the girls long to realize that they need look no further for a summer job. The only problem: They didn't have a name.

"We were on our way to the street corner one day, and the Little Feat song, 'Dixie Chicken,' came on the radio," Martie recalled.

"That was it!" added Emily. "We were the Dixie Chickens!"

"Only Martie didn't want to be a chicken, so the name was shortened to Dixie Chicks," Natalie explained.

So, in other words, the group's name was never intended to have a "feminist backlash" undertone?

"Call me blond, but I never even thought about the name being sexist," insisted Natalie. "I was thinking about a little baby chick."

About the Hoedown . . .

This year's edition of the world's largest FREE country music festival is sponsored by Budweiser, WWW-FM (106.7), Coca-Cola, Fresh Finance, and Farmer Jack. The "new" Hoedown (as it is affectionately known to the more than 10 million loyal country fans who have attended in past years) will again emphasize family values, and will feature entertainment and activities for all ages.

Funds raised from the Budweiser/W4 Country Downtown Hoedown will be used for youth recreation programs in the City of Detroit, including computer camps, basketball clinics, summer day-camps, and aquatics programs.

Hours for the Hoedown are: Friday, 11:30 a.m. to midnight (break from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.); Saturday, noon to midnight; and Sunday, noon to 10 p.m.

National artists will appear according to the following schedule (note: Detroit's top country artists, groups, and dancers will be performing throughout the weekend, as well):

Friday, May 15

- Ruby Lovett
- The Thompson Brothers
- Daryle Singletary
- Neal McCoy

Saturday, May 16

- Matt King
- Suzy Bogguss
- Mark Chesnutt
- Sammy Kershaw
- Lorrie Morgan

Sunday, May 17

- Keith Harling
- Melodie Crittenden
- Dixie Chicks
- Pam Tillis □

Recreation Programs

Thanks to Debbie Dick, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Keith Brothers, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation Programs" column. For more information about these or other offerings, stop in at the Recreation Department Office, 36515 Bibbins, or call 942-6852.

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Department during its regular hours.

Tennis Clinics

The Romulus Recreation Department, in conjunction with the United States Tennis Association, will offer free tennis clinics for ages five through adult on Saturday, May 30.

Clinics will be divided into the following groups: ages five to seven (10 to 10:30 a.m.), grades three and four (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.), grades five through eight (12:30 to 2:30), and high school through adult (2:30 to 4:30 p.m.).

Participants should bring a container of water, and come equipped with racquet and tennis shoes. Balls will be provided. Advance registration is required by Friday, May 29.

Tennis Lessons

Tennis lessons for all ages will begin the week of June 1 according to the following schedule (note: class times may be changed, depending upon the number of students):

Elementary-age Students (Mondays and Wednesdays)

- Beginners (6 to 7 p.m.),
- Intermediate (7 to 8 p.m.), and
- Advanced (8 to 9 p.m.).

Middle School-age through Adult (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

- Beginners (6 to 7 p.m.),
- Intermediate (7 to 8 p.m.), and
- Family (8 to 9 p.m.).

Cost for the five-week session is \$25 per student. Balls will be provided. Registration deadline is Friday, May 29.

Junior Golf Membership

Young golfers (ages eight to 16) are invited to sign up for summer membership (June 22–September 7) at the Woodlands Golf Course and enjoy great benefits! For more information, call Curtis George (729-3812) or the Recreation office.

"Women's Day" Golf

The Woodlands Golf Course has set aside Saturday, May 16, for women to enjoy free golfing. Orientation/"clinic" programs begin at 10 a.m.; golf begins at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Curtis George (729-3812).

Golf Lessons

The Romulus Recreation Department is looking for groups of three to four (any age) who would like to participate in group golf lessons starting in June. Days and times will be established to fit the students' convenience. Cost of the five-lesson series is \$70 (balls not included). For more information, contact the Recreation office.

Summer Recreation I

The annual Summer Recreation programs for elementary-age students will be held at Coleman Center, Fernandez Park, and Cory, Halecreek, Mt. Pleasant, and Merriman schools from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each Monday through Thursday beginning June 29 and continuing through August 13.

As in the past, special trips will be scheduled for Fridays (beginning July 10); however, the cost of these trips is not included in the basic registration fee of \$25 per child (\$40 for two family members; \$60 for three or more).

Summer Recreation II

Students who will be in grades seven through 10 as of September 1998 are invited to participate in a separate Summer Recreation program which will be held at the Middle School each Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. between June 22 and August 6. Pick-up and drop-off sites will be established throughout the City for students who need transportation to the Middle School.

As in the past, special trips will be scheduled for most Fridays; however, the cost of these trips is not included in the basic registration fee of \$25 per child (\$40 for two family members; \$60 for three or more).

"Hometown Celebration"

The City's two-day "Hometown Celebration," set for July 3–4, will begin with a parade that will begin at City Hall at 6 p.m. on Friday. All local groups and organizations are invited to take part. (To find out more about participating, call the Recreation office.)

On Saturday, an entire day of family-style fun has been planned (watch for details in future issues of "the little paper"); fireworks, which will begin at about 10 p.m., will finish things off with a bang!

Horseshoe Club

The Romulus Horseshoe Club – which meets on Tuesday evenings at Elmer Johnson Park – is currently seeking new members. For more information, please contact James Norville at 422-7530. □

Community Calendar

- **Rummage Sale at St. Paul's** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston) will hold a Rummage Sale on Friday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call the Church: 753-9048.
- **Basham Hosts Coffee Hour** – State Representative Raymond Basham (D–Taylor) has announced that he will host a coffee hour at the Romulus Recreation Department (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) on Friday, May 15, between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Basham encourages everyone to stop by, have a cup of coffee, and discuss any issue of interest. For more information, contact Gayle at the Recreation office (734-942-6852) or Basham (517-373-0852).
- **Best Beanie Baby Sale and Show** – The Western Wayne Skill Center PTO is planning "The Best Beanie Baby Sale and Show," a fund-raising event, for Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at the Center (located in the old Henry Ford Junior High at the traffic light on Ann Arbor Trail between Farmington and Merriman roads). Everyone is invited. For information on renting table space, call Carolyn Bradford at 523-9263.
- **Let's Go to the Hop!** – A "Parents' Night Out" Sock Hop will be held at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road) from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 16. Dancing to the music of "Earth Angels" will be the focus of the affair; refreshments and door prizes will also be provided. Fifties-style dress is optional, but encouraged. Tickets (\$8 each) may be purchased at any Romulus school or at the door.
- **Romulus Flyers Holds Early Registration** – The Romulus Flyers will hold early registration for the fall football and cheerleading programs at the Romulus Recreation Center on Friday, May 29, from 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A registration fee of \$30 per child (\$15 for each additional family member) must be paid at the time of registration. Parents will need to bring their child's original birth certificate and a copy (if possible). Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so plan to register early. For more information, please call Sandy Bednar (941-5854).
- **City Sponsors Free Dumping** – The City of Romulus Department of Public Works (located at 34100 Goddard Road) has announced that Romulus residents will be able to take advantage of free dumping (no more than two loads per day) on the following dates: Saturday, May 30, and Saturday, June 6, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Monday through Friday, June 1–5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Materials such as concrete, dirt, yard waste, liquid waste (petroleum products, paint, etc.), and large items (boats, sheds, cars/engines, etc.) won't be accepted; a maximum of four tires will be accepted (must be dumped separate from other debris); and all users must show proof of residency. Dumping area is entered "at your own risk." Children are not allowed in the dumpster area; unsupervised children are not allowed on the premises. For more information, call the DPW at 942-7579.
- **Romulus High School Graduation Information** – Doug Hoffman, Assistant Principal at Romulus High School, has announced the following schedule of graduation-related events: Prom Toast in the High School Atrium (June 2, 6 to 7 p.m.), Senior Prom (June 2, Dearborn Hyatt Regency), Senior Luncheon (June 5, 11 a.m., Clarion Inn), and Commencement (June 6, 11 a.m., Romulus Field House). Admission to the commencement ceremony will be by ticket only. All parents and guests are to be seated no later than 10:45 a.m. (Please arrive early, as seating will not take place when it is disruptive to the quality of the ceremony.) A professional photographer will be taking pictures, and a videotape of the ceremony will be available for purchase. For more information, call Hoffman at 941-2170, ext. 144.
- **RHS Class of 1958 Reunion** – Romulus High School's Class of 1958 will hold its 30-year reunion on October 17, 1998. For more information, contact Carol Graczyk (734-427-7004) or Janet Miller (734-697-7483).
- **Alumni Information Sought** – Romulus High School is working with the Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, Inc., to create an alumni directory. The goal of the project is to place all of the current residential and professional information on each of the school's graduates in one place. To make the directory as comprehensive as possible, the current names, addresses, and phone numbers of graduates from all class years are needed. Anyone with pertinent information should phone (800-654-4548) or FAX (800-829-4142) it to Harris Publishing, or mail it to Charlene Davenport (Publicity Coordinator, c/o Graduate Connection, Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, 22 Koger Center, Norfolk, Virginia 23502) as soon as possible.
- **Registrations Accepted at St. Aloysius School** – St. Aloysius Catholic School is now accepting registrations for the 1998–1999 school year for its all-day, five-day kindergarten program as well as for grades one through eight. The school is located near I-275 and I-94 in Romulus. For more information, call 941-3340.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

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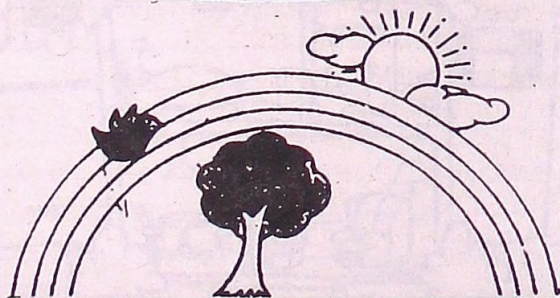
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New Patients Welcome

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Audry Moomaw, Manager of the Romulus Tower, and Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(Note: For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 942-6852.)

Guarding Tess

This month's \$1 movie at the Senior Center—*Guarding Tess*, starring Nicholas Cage and Shirley MacLaine—will be shown on the Center's big-screen TV at 1 p.m. on Friday, May 15. Refreshments will be served.

Senior Picnic

Romulus High School students will be on hand to help with the Center's annual Senior Picnic, to be held at Elmer Johnson Park on Friday, May 22, beginning at 11 a.m. The day's menu will feature traditional picnic fare: hot dogs, potato salad, beans, chips, lemonade, and dessert. Lots of games are planned, too. There is no charge to attend the picnic, but early sign-up is encouraged because space is limited.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 942-6852. (Please note: Deposits insure your seat for any bus trip. Complete payment is due at least two weeks prior to departure for day trips; for overnight trips, payment is due at least 30 days prior to departure. Checks may be made payable to either the City of Romulus or the tour company.)

- **Kewadin Casino**
(Tue.—Wed., Jun. 23–24; \$89)
- **Soaring Eagle Casino**
(Wed., Jul. 22; \$20)
- **"Phantom of the Opera" (Marshall)**
(Wed., Aug. 26; \$53)
- **Soaring Eagle Casino**
(Wed., Sep. 30; \$20)
- **Appalachian Adventure**
(Tue.—Fri., Oct. 6–9; \$403)
- **Soaring Eagle Casino**
(Wed., Nov. 4; \$20)

Legal Aid

Wayne County residents who are at least 60 years of age can receive free legal assistance in most civil matters at a Legal Aid clinic to be held at the Romulus Senior Center on Wednesday, May 20, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Although no appointment is necessary, space will be limited to the first 25 people to come in and sign up.

Crime Watch: A Weather Eye

Officer Joe Richardson will discuss ways to safely weather a tornado strike at the next Crime Watch meeting, to be held at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27.

Be sure to stop by and share any tips that you may have and learn a few new ones.

"National Night Out"

Romulus Crime Prevention Officer Joe Richardson and Senior Program Coordinator Linda Norman are in the process of planning a coed "sleep-over" — to be held at the Senior Center on Tuesday, August 4 — in recognition of the National Association of Town Watch's annual "National Night Out" program. The unique crime- and drug-prevention program promises to be a night full of fun; a cookout breakfast will wrap up the event on the following morning.

"National Night Out" is designed to heighten crime- and drug-prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Last year's "National Night Out" event generated participation in 9,250 communities from all 50 states, the U.S. territories, Canada, and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 30 million people were involved.

The Senior Center is currently seeking donations for the sleep-over, as well as the loan of "safe" cots and blowup mattresses to use that night. Anyone willing to lend such items to the Senior Center should contact Linda Norman at 942-6852.

Weekly Programs

The Romulus Senior Center has a full schedule of weekly programs for senior citizens' enjoyment. Come in on your own or bring a friend for ceramics (Mondays at 1 and 6 p.m.); exercise (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.); Club #1 meetings (Tuesdays at 11 a.m.); euchre (Tuesdays at 1 p.m.); bingo (Wednesdays at 1 p.m.); and pinochle (Thursdays at 1 p.m.).

Commodities Available at the Center

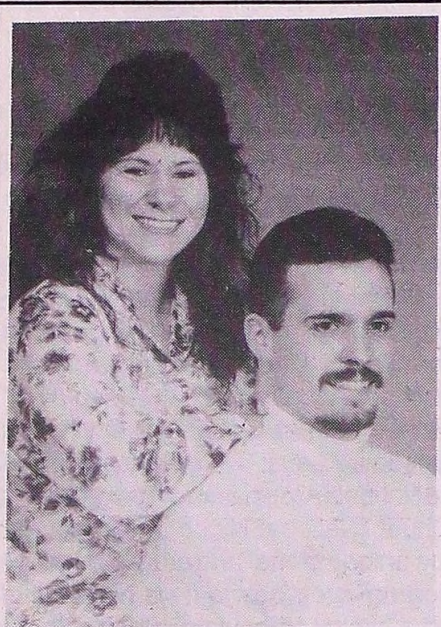
The Romulus Senior Center will be distributing commodities to qualified individuals on the third Thursday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Preregistration (Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; bring proof of income) is required.

Next date: May 21.

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Wedding Bells

Christopher Elliott / Angela Mabelitini



Angela and Christopher

Planning to marry on May 30, 1998, are Christopher M. Elliott and Angela A. Mabelitini.

The couple – who have been engaged since September 12, 1995 – will exchange their vows at Heritage Historic Village (Taylor, MI). Groomsmen John Campbell, Keith Schilleman, Joe Mabelitini, and Jamie Mabelitini will stand up with Christopher; Angela will be attended by bridesmaids Tina Chrysler, Shannon Cholette, Jennifer Wiesnowski, and Tammy Mabelitini.

A reception will be held at Crystal Gardens (Southgate, MI) immediately following the ceremony.

Christopher is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Schilleman of Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

Angela's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Tony Mabelitini of Romulus, Michigan.

Juanray Street, Jr. / Trisha Booker

Announcing their plans to marry on September 5, 1998, are Juanray Nolan Street, Jr., of Romulus, Michigan, and Trisha Ann Booker of Detroit, Michigan. The couple became engaged on February 14, 1998 (Valentine's Day).

Juanray – the son of the late Juanray Nolan Street, Sr., and Deborah Street – is a graduate of Romulus High School and Bowling Green State University. He is currently employed as a probation agent with the Michigan Department of Corrections.

The daughter of John Robert Booker and Lorine Booker-Myles, Trisha is a graduate of Wayne State University, and is employed as a computer applications specialist with Open Text Intranet.

The ceremony will be held at Unity Baptist Church (Detroit, MI).



Trisha and Juanray

Tim Kilgore / Beth Anne Roberts

Tom and Marilyn Hopson of Belleville, Michigan, are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Beth Anne Roberts, to Tim Kilgore, son of Jim and Ginger Kilgore of Romulus, Michigan. An August 22, 1998 wedding is planned. □



Tim and Beth Anne

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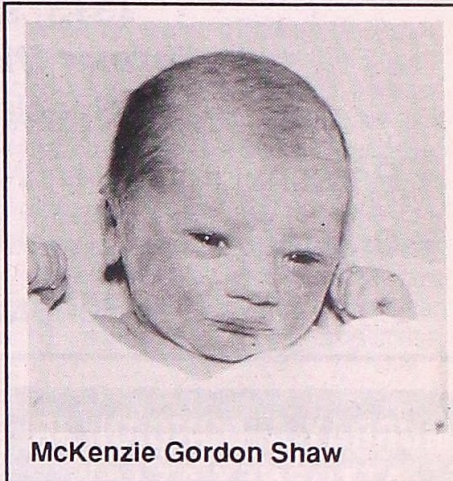
New Arrivals

McKenzie Gordon Shaw

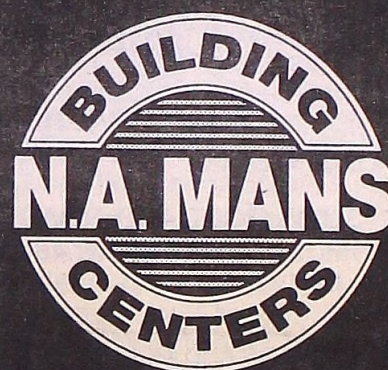
Randolph and Brandy Shaw of New Boston, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new son, McKenzie Gordon Shaw.

McKenzie was born in Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital (Wyandotte, MI) at 6:42 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 1998, weighing in at seven pounds, four ounces, and measuring 19½ inches in length.

Giving a warm welcome to their newest family member were Geraldine Wrenn, McKenzie's paternal grandmother, and Karen Harp, his maternal grandmother.



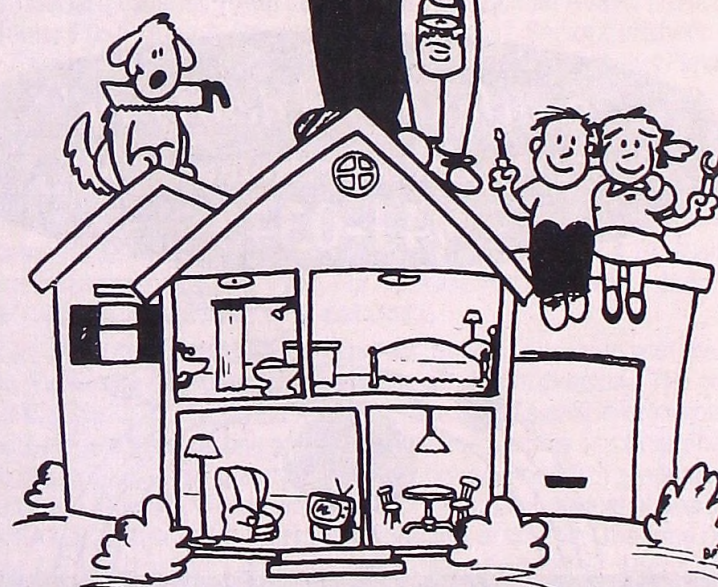
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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS

P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsman _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries

Lucille A. (Baker) Crook

Lucille A. (Baker) Crook of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, died on Wednesday, April 29, 1998, at the age of 53.

The native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was born on September 9, 1944.

Lucille is survived by two sons, Robert T. and Richard W. Crook (both of Belleville, MI); one daughter, Ms. Carol Ann Marcum (Belleville, MI); three brothers, Harold D. (Ferndale, MI), Robert W. (Madison Heights, MI), and Dan J. Baker (Warren, MI); four sisters, Mrs. William (Nancy) Graves (Davis, OK), Mrs. Rob-

ert (Sally) Sul (Sterling Heights, MI), Ms. Bonnie Bates (Lexington, KY), and Ms. Diana Shornak (Royal Oak, MI); and three grandchildren.

A funeral service was held on Monday, May 4, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Father Alexander Wytrowski (St. Stephen Catholic Church, New Boston, MI) officiating. Cremation arrangements were made by Tri-County Cremation Services (Ypsilanti, MI). Memorial tributes may be made to the Michigan Heart Association.

Cymonne Dane Pyles



Cymonne (right) with parents Jeffrey and Deborah, brother Brock, and sister Tarah.

On April 28, 1998, 10-year-old Romulus resident Cymonne Pyles succumbed to the brain tumor which she had battled for two years. The heroic young girl's courage, faith, and kindness endeared her to the entire community, which continued to pray for her while holding numerous benefits to raise money toward her staggering medical bills.

More than 200 people attended the "Going Home Celebration" led by the Reverend Gary Hill at Emmanuel General Baptist Church (Allen Park, MI) on May 2. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI).

Cymonne is survived by her parents, Jeffrey and Deborah Pyles; one brother, Brock; and two sisters, Tarah and Asia.

Mary B. (Glinski) Wisniewski

Mary B. Wisniewski of Romulus, Michigan, died on Thursday, May 7, 1998. She was 83 years old.

Mary was born in Hamtramck, Michigan, on September 20, 1914. The homemaker was a member of the Polish National Alliance (Lodge Secretary-Financial), the Altar Society of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, and the Romulus Progressive Club, and was also active at the Romulus Senior Center.

She is survived by one son, Stanley L. (and his wife Susan) Wisniewski (Canton, MI); two daughters, Mrs. Charles (Virginia) Miller (Ann Arbor, MI) and Mrs. Robert (Agnes A.) Cook (Belle-

ville, MI); three brothers, John T. (Romulus, MI), Frank (Romulus, MI), and Albert Glinski (Allentown, MI); 19 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Frank S. Wisniewski, who died December 22, 1993, as well as three brothers and one sister.

A funeral service was held on Monday, May 11, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Tom Kusick officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI). Memorial tributes may be made to the American Heart Association and/or in the form of mass cards. □

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